

companies were invited to bid on post-war reconstruction contracts in Iraq. Most prominently, Bechtel, an engineering and construction firm, was awarded an initial contract of \$34.6 million that could potentially grow to \$680 million over the next year and a half. It is critical that openness and transparency are the hallmarks of the reconstruction process, and for that reason, I am introducing the "Sunshine in Iraq Reconstruction Contracting Act."

Although legal, the bidding process thus far leaves much to be desired. Left unanswered are questions about why open competition was not allowed, and the size and scope of the reconstruction contracts awarded. We should all be able to agree that the U.S. government's reconstruction bidding process should be as open to disclosure as possible to ensure that there is no question of political favoritism or backroom deal making. After all, these contracts are spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and our constituents deserve to know to whom their money is going and why.

My legislation, which mirrors a bipartisan Senate measure, simply requires federal agencies that award contracts for Iraqi reconstruction activities to publicly disclose how a non-competitive contract was awarded, and the justification for foregoing an open-bid process.

These details, along with a brief description of the contract's cost and scope, would have to be published in the Federal Register within 30 days of the date the contract was awarded. Any classified information would only be provided to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Government Reform Committees, as well as whichever committee has jurisdiction over an agency that awards a non-competitive contract.

It only makes it more difficult for the United States to hold ourselves up as a model for a future Iraqi government if the contracts the federal government awards are done with little or no competition and without adequate public disclosure. The Iraq reconstruction process should be as open as possible. This is not a partisan issue, but one that concerns the public interest and American credibility. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this measure.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF RONALD
LAGRONE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the life and legacy of Ronald LaGrone, a colleague and a friend of mine from Hamburg, Arkansas. I was honored to have known Mr. LaGrone, a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as a husband, father, businessman, and church and community leader.

Ronnie LaGrone owned and ran the LaGrone Drug Store in Hamburg with his brother Fred. For 38 years, he helped to care for the health of his friends and neighbors. Ronnie leaves behind him a proud legacy of service and compassion. He served as Deacon of the First Baptist Church, as Hamburg City Councilman, and as board member of the Arkansas Pharmacy Association.

As a pharmacy owner, I owe him a debt of gratitude for his long service of leadership to

our profession. Ronnie set out to improve the lives of others through both his professional and his private life. As a member of a small community, I know what men like Ronnie mean to their neighbors; his service was out of true concern for their livelihood.

Ronnie's contributions were recently recognized by the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, as he was named winner of the Fred LaGrone Lifetime Achievement Award for his role as community pharmacist and as community leader. Clearly, his community mourned his loss. I know Ronnie's passing was especially difficult for his wife, Patricia, and their three daughters, Terri, Kelli, and Staci, and I have kept all of them in my thoughts and in my prayers. While Ronnie LaGrone may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy live on in the example he set and the many lives he touched.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DOWNTOWN LIONS CLUB

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downtown Lions Club during its 75th anniversary celebration. The Downtown Lions Club was chartered in January of 1928 and they were sponsored by the Coatesville Lions Club.

As we all know, Lions Clubs across the nation are made up of active and energetic citizens who undertake numerous initiatives and projects to make their communities better places to live and raise families. They are particularly committed to providing help and service to the blind through a wide variety of support activities. The Downtown Lions Club hosts four major fundraising events each year—White Cane Day, a golf outing, Good Neighbor Day and a pancake breakfast. These efforts have helped many charitable organizations over the years, including the Chester County Association for the Blind and the Downingtown Area Senior Center.

The good works of the Club have also resulted in contributions to the Downingtown Area Veterans Memorial Fund, Downingtown Historical Society and various health appeals. And the entire community has benefited from the Club's particular attention to the development of Kerr Park, including a pavilion, the war memorial, and a water fountain.

I am proud to be a member of and represent an organization that has spent so many years in the service of others. I wish to extend my thanks, and the thanks of all those who have been helped by members of the Club. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Downingtown Lions Club on reaching this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BURNEY
L. ADAMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a great

man and leader, Mr. Burney L. Adams. A man who has given much to his community, Mr. Adams will be honored this Friday, May 2, 2003 by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's National Alumni Association with their 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award.

After graduating from Florida A&M, Mr. Adams was signed with the Canadian Professional Football team, the Hamilton Tigers. Upon release, he journeyed to Newark, New Jersey where he took a job with the Newark Board of Education. Mr. Adams made Newark his home, and has been a role model and significant contributor to the community for the past 40 years.

Through his work with the Board of Education as well as Football Coach at Weequahic High School, Mr. Adams saw the need for assistance of minority students in pursuing higher educational goals. Since 1963 he has been instrumental in obtaining college scholarship assistance for more than 900 youth in both my district as well as neighboring areas.

As a former teacher and current member of the Education & the Workforce Committee here in the House of Representatives, I appreciate the drive and determination of educators such as Mr. Adams. Coach Adams has a dedication and devotion not only to his players on the field but also to the youth of his community. Investing personal time, effort, and money into his students, Coach Adams believes in the spirit of his students to succeed. It is members of our community like Mr. Adams who give so selflessly of their time that enables our youngest citizens to reach their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today as I recognize Burney Adams and his well deserved award from Florida A&M University. I wish him the very best on this special occasion and best wishes in all his future endeavors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO THE
LATE FAMU COACH, PROFESSOR
ROBERT T. "BOB" MUNGEN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, though it is a sad day for the entire Florida A&M University family, find it a great privilege to pay this posthumous tribute to the late Coach and Professor Robert T. "Bob" Mungen. His untimely demise this past Sunday, April 20, 2003, leaves a great void in our historic institution. He is survived by his beloved wife Doretha, his son Robert and daughters Toyka and Sonya Lynn.

Coach Mungen's magnificent contributions to the personal and professional growth of countless students and scholar-athletes at FAMU, Edward Waters College and Knoxville College are legendary and now emblaze the halls of academia. To his credit, young men and young women who came under his tutelage found a caring professor and an indomitable coach, who was at the same time highly regarded and loved as a confidant and a dotting father-figure.

Nowhere has his role of advocating played out so genuinely in the lives of his students